



acipgh.org

American Concrete Institute  
Pittsburgh Area Chapter  
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Spring 2026

# CHAPTER NEWS

Progress through Knowledge

## Concrete In the Steel City



### 2026-2027 PITTSBURGH AREA CHAPTER UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

#### GOLF OUTING

**Monday - July 20, 2026**  
QUICKSILVER GOLF CLUB  
Midway, PA 15060

#### CHAPTER MEETINGS

Wednesday - October 21, 2026  
Wednesday - November 18, 2026  
Wednesday - December 16, 2026

Wednesday - January 20, 2027  
Wednesday - February 17, 2027  
Wednesday - March 24, 2027

For more upcoming events visit [acipgh.org/calendar-of-events](https://acipgh.org/calendar-of-events)



Pittsburgh Chapter, American Concrete Institute



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ACI Pittsburgh



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# CHAPTER NEWS

## ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET Highlights

The Chapter's annual awards banquet was held on April 24, 2026 at the Pittsburgh Zoo Aquarium.



### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**The 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Ron Lavia.**

Ron was the salesperson at Pioneer Concrete for the Pittsburgh and Dravosburg plants from 1989 to 1994. During Pioneer's ownership, he played a key role in securing several major projects, including the VA Hospital expansion on Delafield Road in Fox Chapel, the Route 28 improvements near Millvale, the Smithfield Street Bridge deck rehabilitation, the lightweight deck on the 40th Street Bridge, and the continuous caster foundation at the Edgar Thomson Works, among many others.

When ownership transitioned to Arrow Concrete in April 1994, Ron continued in his role, expanding his reach to include the North Shore and Braddock plants. His impact only grew, as he helped secure a wide range of high-profile projects in the Pittsburgh and Braddock markets-too many to list in full-including PNC Park, Heinz Field, the ALCOSAN expansion, the Convention Center expansion, the Port Authority East Busway, and numerous projects across the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University campuses. During Arrow's ownership, new plants were established in Johnstown and State College, and Ron was heavily relied upon to help close deals on major power plant projects and Penn State developments.

Ron's knowledge of the ready-mix concrete business spans every stage of the process-from the moment materials are loaded into the truck to its return to the plant. Many colleagues in the industry say they have never met anyone more passionate about ready-mix concrete. Ron takes great pride in sharing his expertise with both seasoned professionals and those just entering the field. He chose to retire in 2017, but after a brief time away, he returned to the work he was clearly meant to do, bringing with him the same passion and dedication, if not even more than before.



*Ron Lavia with past winners in attendance at this year's awards banquet (from left to right): Bob Lawrence, George Wargo, Russel Smith*

*The Lifetime Achievement Award was created in 1999 in memory of Thomas "Tink" Bryan.*

*Tink was an outstanding individual who dedicated himself to his family, business and the concrete industry. Over the past several years, the Chapter has honored other members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment in these same areas.*

## Congratulations! 2026 FOUNDERS AWARD WINNERS



### **Kayla Spink (1st Place - \$4,000)**

Kayla is a senior at Penn State University. Her major is Civil and Environmental Engineering. She is expected to graduate in December 2026 and plans on working for Whiting-Turner as a Project Engineer out of their Fort Washington, PA office. While working, she would like to simultaneously pursue a master's degree in material science. Kayla attended the awards banquet with her boyfriend Christian Villela.





▶ Continued from page 1...

## AWARDS BANQUET Highlights

### 2026 FOUNDERS AWARD WINNERS continued...



#### Jason Wood (2nd Place - \$3,000)

Jason is a senior at Geneva College in the Civil Engineering department. Jason graduated on May 9, 2026. After graduation he will be moving back home to Watsonstown, PA, and will be working at the PennDOT District 3 office in Montoursville. He will be a civil engineer trainee (CET), a position where he will cycle

through all PennDOT's engineering offices for a year before getting hired to a specific one. He recently passed his FE and plans on becoming an EIT upon graduation. Ultimately, he would like to get his PE and go into bridge inspection or geotechnical design. Jason attended the Awards banquet with friend Nathan McFarland, who is a Sophomore at Geneva College.



#### Jace Polowy (3rd Place - \$2,000)

Jace is a sophomore at Pennsylvania College of Technology. Her major is in Construction Management, Concrete Science. Jace is on target to graduate in May of 2028. After graduation she will seek a construction management position in Central Pennsylvania, with a focus on concrete construction and structural applications such as bridges and commercial work. She is motivated to continue developing her expertise

in structural concrete systems and construction processes. She is also interested in the role of prefabricated and precast concrete in improving efficiency and quality. Her goal is to build hands-on experience and grow into greater responsibility within the industry.



Newly elected board members from left to right: Kurt Staab, Jessica Viehman, Luke Medich, Mac Young

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026 - 2027

**Carly McGee**  
KTA-Tator, Inc.  
*Past President*

**Ryan Pendeville**  
Golden Triangle Construction  
*President*

**Dominic Giovannucci**  
Heidelberg Materials  
*Vice President*

~ BOARD MEMBERS ~

Luke Medich - Heidelberg Materials  
Michael Moore - Rycon Construction, Inc.  
April Snyder - ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC  
Kurt Staab - Allegheny Mineral Corporation  
Jessica Viehman - Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.  
Matt Watson - Euclid Chemical  
Mac Young - R-E-D Industrial Products

~ STAFF ~

**Beth Rader** - Secretary / Treasurer  
**Andy Lawrence** - Certification Coordinator

*Chapter News is published by the American Concrete Institute, Pittsburgh Area Chapter for the purpose of informing members and others about issues of concern to the concrete industry. If you have information to include in this publication or any comments, contact ACI Pittsburgh Chapter at 724-452-1468*



New President Ryan Pendeville with past president Carly McGee.



There was even a future ACI Member in attendance this year!

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# 11th Annual EXCELLENCE IN CONCRETE PROJECT AWARD WINNERS

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates

Project: Centre Plaza Garage | Category: Repair and Restoration



Centre Plaza is a nine-story apartment building, constructed circa 1970, that includes three garage levels. The two levels of garage floor framing were composed of 6-inch-thick precast concrete hollow core planks with 2 1/2-inches of cast-in-place concrete topping, supported by structural steel framing. Steel plates with metal studs embedded in the plank were welded to the structural steel framing. Water infiltration into the topping slab and precast hollow core planks resulted in significant corrosion of prestressing strands and embedded steel plate connectors. WJE was retained to assess the extent of deterioration, design repairs for the precast planks, and provide construction period services.



The final repair design consisted of removal of 35 existing precast hollow core planks and replacement with new reinforced concrete slabs on metal form deck. This design was the most efficient and cost effective, allowing for streamlined demolition of existing plank and installation of a new metal deck that would restore diaphragm action and support the wet weight of concrete. To reduce overall time of placement, concrete was pumped to repair locations. Concrete was then screeded and finished with a float.

WJE worked closely with the contractor and concrete material supplier to develop a concrete mixture that could be both pumped and finished, exhibit highly early strength while minimizing shrinkage, and have adequate air content for freeze thaw resistance. Ground granulated blast furnace slag was incorporated into the concrete to improve workability, while reducing the carbon footprint of the design. The project involved unique approaches, including the use of long-span roof deck as stay-in-place forms, complex tie-in details between repair areas and existing planks, and implementation of adjusted finishing techniques with the use of Type 1L cement. A durable concrete mixture design, with freeze thaw resistance, coupled with a traffic bearing membrane, has extended the service life of the structure.



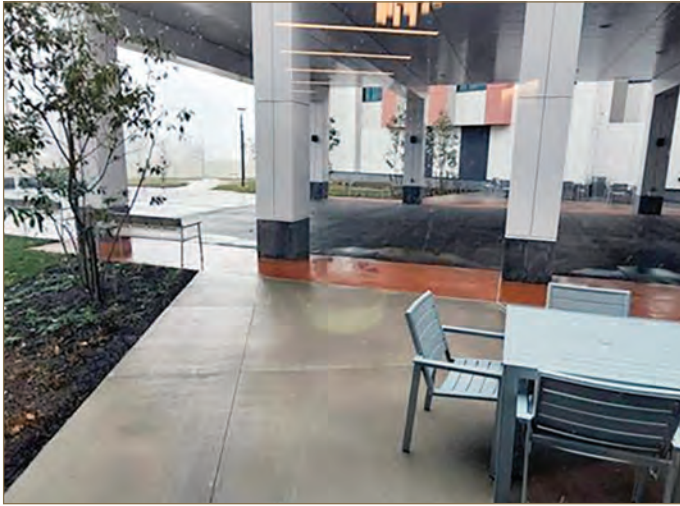
2026 Annual Excellence in Concrete Project Award Winner  
Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates  
(from left to right): Phil Elgin, Jessica Viehman, Dominic Giovannucci

# 11th Annual EXCELLENCE IN CONCRETE PROJECT AWARD WINNERS



**New Enterprise Stone & Lime**

**Project: Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home | Category: Low-Rise Building**



The Hollidaysburg Veterans Home in Blair County, PA, run by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and Department of General Services, added a “New Community Living Center.” This modern care facility will accommodate 200 residents. It is a three story building at approximately 161,000 square feet. This project began in May of 2023 and wrapped up in late 2025.

JC Orr & Son, Inc. was the general contractor and New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc. was the concrete supplier.

This project was very interesting regarding ready mix concrete because of all the different mix designs used. 12 different mixes accounted for the 6,463 cubic yards of concrete placed. This includes 1,655.5 CY of lightweight concrete that was placed through the winter months. The whole production team worked together to keep the aggregate conditioned without freezing.

There was also 372 cubic yards of Colored Decorative Concrete used in various courtyards. Four different colors were used, these colors were chose to match up with the siding that would eventually be put on the building. Mock ups were ran, sample pieces were produced so the owners could make their choices. Quality Control was very important, keeping consistent slumps, keeping the colors as close as possible. Great communication between the GC and the supplier made this a huge success.



2026 Annual Excellence in Concrete Project Award Winner  
New Enterprise Stone & Lime (from left to right): Jason Strohm, Jessie Kennedy, Adrian Synder, Dominic Giovannucci



## ACI STUDENT CHAPTERS

The American Concrete Institute is a leading authority on concrete materials, design, and construction. ACI student membership provides free digital access to ACI recommended practices, including all guides, reports, and technotes, plus published research and articles from Concrete International magazine.

Creating a chapter at your institution is easy! The ACI Pittsburgh Chapter region includes Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, and Northwest West Virginia. A minimum of 15 students is required.

### BENEFITS OF ESTABLISHING AN ACI STUDENT CHAPTER

**Opportunities with Your Local ACI Pittsburgh Chapter** • Attend Monthly Dinner Meetings In-Person or Virtually • Technical Seminars • Industry Networking • Scholarships • Present Updates at Dinner Meetings • Showcase Your Project as our Presenter at Dinner Meetings

**Opportunities with Your School** • Leadership Experience • Host Your Own Technical Seminars • Create Your Own Student Chapter Webpage • Engage in Competitions • Attend ACI Convention

**ACI Foundation Scholarships & Fellowships** • \$5,000 Scholarship • \$10,000 – \$15,000 Fellowship (Includes mentoring, internship, convention registration, and travel stipend) • University Awards Program

**Career Center** • Internships • Job Opportunities • Free Résumé Posting

**Student Competitions** • Egg Protection Device • FRC Bowling Ball • Pervious Concrete Cylinder • Travel Stipend up to \$5,000 • Local, Regional, and International Competitions • Virtual Poster Competitions

**Certificate Programs** • Concrete and Materials • Concrete Construction • Repair Application Procedures • Anchorage Design

**Student Member Discounts** • \$10 ACI Convention Registration • ACI 318-19 Building Code • SP-17 Reinforced Concrete Design Handbook • SP-4 Formwork for Concrete

*Visit [acipgh.org/aci-student-chapters](http://acipgh.org/aci-student-chapters) for information on getting started, marketing your Student Chapter, and more. If you have any questions concerning starting an ACI Student Chapter or are ready to begin the process please contact Josh Bryan (ACI Pittsburgh) [joshbryan@bryanmaterialsgroup.com](mailto:joshbryan@bryanmaterialsgroup.com) or Kanette Worlds (ACI International) [kanette.worlds@concrete.org](mailto:kanette.worlds@concrete.org).*

## 2026-2027 ELECTION BALLOT RESULTS

**We currently have 258 members and 43 ballots were returned.**

### PRESIDENT

**Ryan Pendeville**  
Golden Triangle Construction

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Dominic Giovannucci**  
Heidelberg Materials

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Luke Medich**  
Heidelberg Materials

**Michael Moore**  
Rycon Construction, Inc.

**April Snyder**  
ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC

**Kurt Staab**  
Allegheny Mineral Corporation

**Jessica Viehman**  
Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

**Mac Young**  
R-E-D Industrial Products

**THANK YOU!** to the 2025-2026 Board for all of their efforts!